(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this exercise is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) follows certain norms regarding pricing of Scheduled formulations in respect of certain cost factors such as Conversion Cost (CC), Packing Material Cost (PMC), Packing Charges (PC), Process Loss (PL) etc. As these norms are to be notified every year under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95), the exercises to review them is under progress. The study to revise the norms regarding Conversion Charges (CC), Packing Charges (PC) and Process Loss (PL) is being carried out by the Cost Account Branch of the Ministry of Finance at the instance of NPPA whereas the study relating to Packing Material Cost (PMC) norms is being carried out by the NPPA itself.

Fertilizer production

314. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of fertilizers in the country has been hit;

(b) if so, the data for last two quarters; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Production of major fertilizers except DAP was higher as compared to corresponding period of last year. Production of urea and complexes has been the highest ever. Low production of DAP was on account of limited availability of phosphoric acid in the international market.

(b) Production of all fertilizers for the last two quarters are given below:

('000' MTs)

Products	Quarters					
	April-June		July-September		Total April-September	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Urea	4789.3	4750.3	5219	5369.5	10008.3	10119.8
DAP	1276.3	913.5	1344.5	1180.2	2620.8	2093.7
Complexes	1052.1	1335.6	1342.5	1690.9	2394.6	3026.5
Single Super Phosphate (SSP)	492.5	537.9	516.3	567.3	1008.8	1105.2

(c) The lower production of DAP has been compensated by higher imports. About 11.77 LMT of DAP was imported in this period as compared to about 1.84 LMT in the corresponding period of last year.

Price control of essential drugs

315. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in consultation with the major pharmaceutical MNCs, have lately taken any effective steps and evolved a policy to bring down the prices of essential drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the policy so evolved; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) The present pricing policy of the Government is being implemented by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 and the guidelines evolved by it from time to time.

Subsequently, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Adviser, Planning Commission was constituted to explore options other than price control to make available life-saving drugs at